

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations bill by including no less than \$4.7 billion for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable citizens.

LIHEAP helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. LIHEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country. According to the National Energy Assistance Director's Association (NEADA), nearly 90 percent of LIHEAP recipients have at least one household member who is a child, elderly, or disabled. For these households, LIHEAP funding has been a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to affordable home energy is not a luxury – it is a matter of health and safety.

We understand the ongoing discretionary budget challenges. However, we are deeply concerned that funding for LIHEAP has declined more than 30 percent in recent years. Moreover, the number of households eligible for assistance continues to exceed available funding. According to NEADA, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP assistance has declined by 15.5 percent between FY 2010 and FY 2015, from 8.1 million to 6.8 million. About 1.3 million poor households have lost access to critical LIHEAP assistance and struggle to pay for the basic necessity of home energy in addition to other essentials like food and medicine.

Funding has declined by almost \$1.7 billion since FY 2010, yet energy costs have remained high, reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP assistance. Recipients have seen their average LIHEAP grant reduced by about \$107 since 2010, from \$520 in FY 2010 to \$413 in FY 2015. The average LIHEAP grant is estimated to cover less than half of the average home heating costs for a household this winter, meaning that many low-income families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet other basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the great need for LIHEAP. We urge you to reprioritize this program and restore funding to this program to a level no less than \$4.7 billion.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

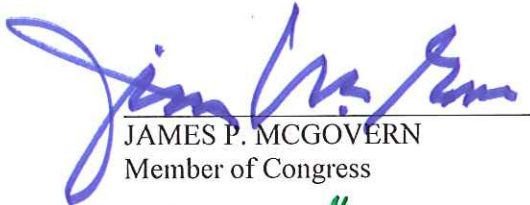
Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress




JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



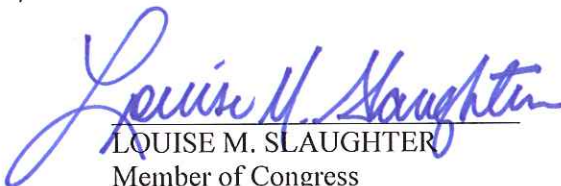
LOU BARLETTA  
Member of Congress



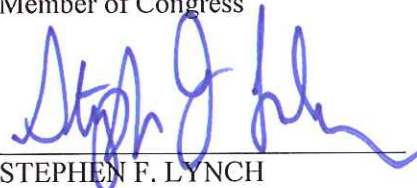
GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER  
Member of Congress



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress



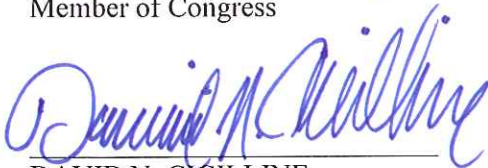
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress



RICHARD NOLAN  
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE  
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

Wilihi

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

  
GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress

  
THEODORE E. DEUTCH  
Member of Congress


  
G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress

  
ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress

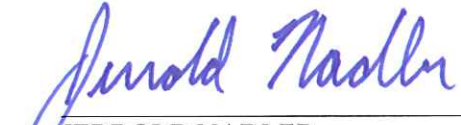
  
ANN McLANE KUSTER  
Member of Congress

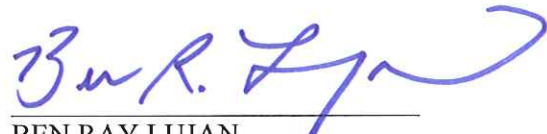
  
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER  
Member of Congress


  
SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Member of Congress


  
STEPHANIE MURPHY  
Member of Congress

  
CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
Member of Congress

  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

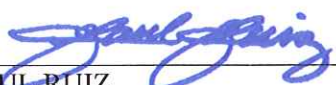
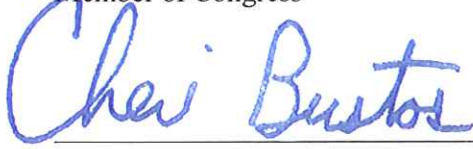



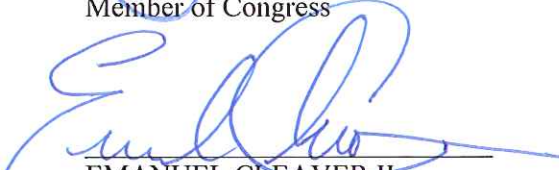

  
BEN RAY LUJAN  
Member of Congress

  
GWEN MOORE  
Member of Congress

  
CEDRIC L. RICHMOND  
Member of Congress

  
AL LAWSON JR.  
Member of Congress

  
TOM O'HALLERAN  
Member of Congress

  
RAUL RUIZ  
Member of Congress  
CHERI BUSTOS  
Member of Congress  
JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress  
MIKE DOYLE  
Member of Congress  
SUSAN W. BROOKS  
Member of Congress  
CHRIS COLLINS  
Member of Congress  
AL GREEN  
Member of Congress  
ELIJAH CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress  
PAUL TONKO  
Member of Congress  
BRUCE POLIQUIN  
Member of Congress  
BETO O'ROURKE  
Member of Congress  
DANIEL T. KILDEE  
Member of Congress  
ROBERT "BOBBY" C. SCOTT  
Member of Congress  
JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress  
EMANUEL CLEAVER II  
Member of Congress  
JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress



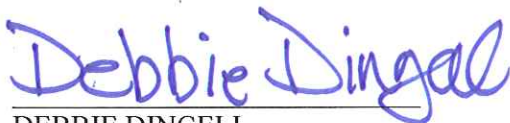
RON KIND  
Member of Congress



DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



COLLIN C PETERSON  
Member of Congress



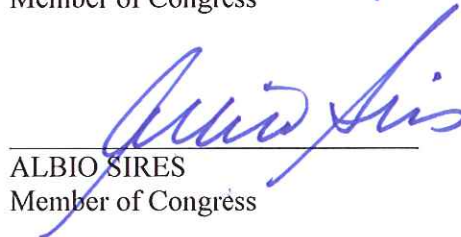
DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF  
Member of Congress



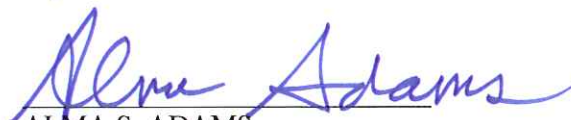
ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress



ALMA S. ADAMS  
Member of Congress



ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN  
Member of Congress



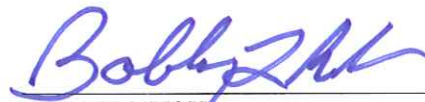
BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER  
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL JR.  
Member of Congress



BOBBY RUSH  
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ  
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE  
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE  
Member of Congress



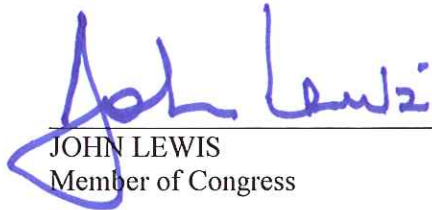
BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress



VAL BUTLER DEMINGS  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN MALONEY  
Member of Congress



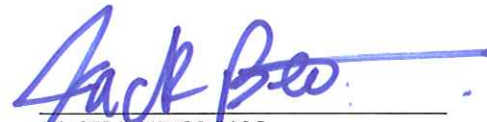
JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress



NORMA J. TORRES  
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress



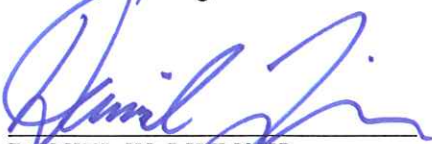
JACK BERGMAN  
Member of Congress



TONY CÁRDENAS  
Member of Congress



ADAM KINZINGER  
Member of Congress



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK  
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT  
Member of Congress

  
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress

  
TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress

  
WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress

  
DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD PAYNE JR.  
Member of Congress

  
PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

  
NYDIA VELAZQUEZ  
Member of Congress

  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress

  
ELIOT ENGEL  
Member of Congress

  
ELIZABETH ESTY  
Member of Congress

  
FRANK A. LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress

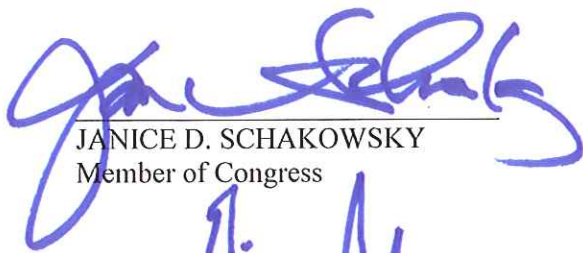
  
FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress

  
GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON  
Member of Congress

  
JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress

  
ELISE STEFANIK  
Member of Congress

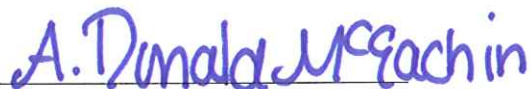
  
JAMES HIMES  
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress



DONALD MCEACHIN  
Member of Congress



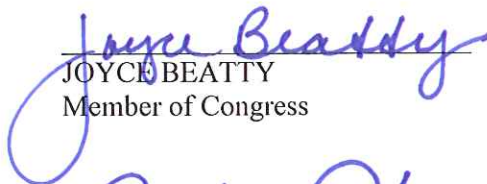
JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY  
Member of Congress



JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY  
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress



JIM LANGEVIN  
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS  
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III  
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN M. RICE  
Member of Congress

  
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress

  
KYRSTEN SINEMA  
Member of Congress

  
MICHAEL R. TURNER  
Member of Congress

  
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress


  
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ  
Member of Congress

  
MARC VEASEY  
Member of Congress

  
MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress

  
MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress

  
TED LIEU  
Member of Congress

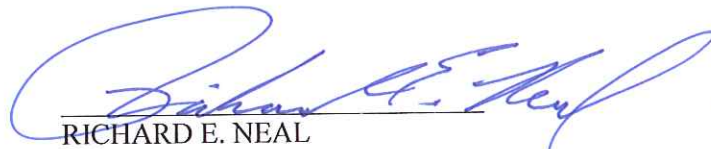
  
MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress

  
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
Member of Congress

  
TOM MARINO  
Member of Congress

  
WM. LACY CLAY  
Member of Congress

  
LEE ZELDIN  
Member of Congress

  
RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress

  
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

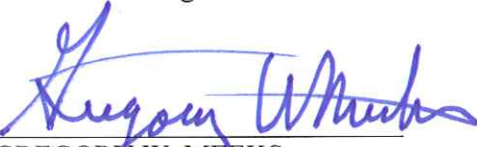
  
CLAUDIA TENNEY  
Member of Congress

  
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
Member of Congress

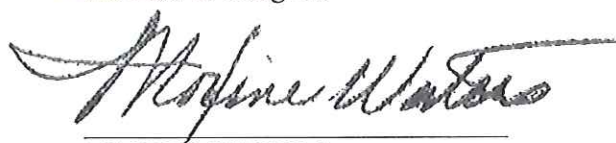
  
DARREN SOTO  
Member of Congress


  
RYAN COSTELLO  
Member of Congress

  
YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress

  
GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress

  
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress

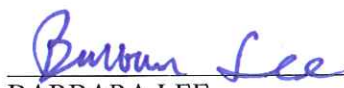
  
SANDER M. LEVIN  
Member of Congress

  
SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress

  
KAREN BASS  
Member of Congress

  
STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress

  
TERRI SEWELL  
Member of Congress

  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

  
PETER A. DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

  
LOIS FRANKEL  
Member of Congress



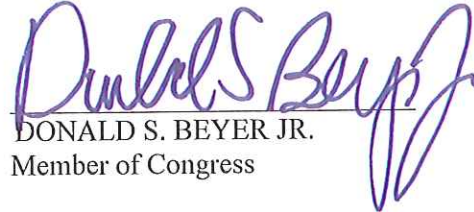
DANIEL DONOVAN JR.  
Member of Congress



WILL HURD  
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYER JR.  
Member of Congress



THOMAS SUOZZI  
Member of Congress



HAKEEM JEFFRIES  
Member of Congress



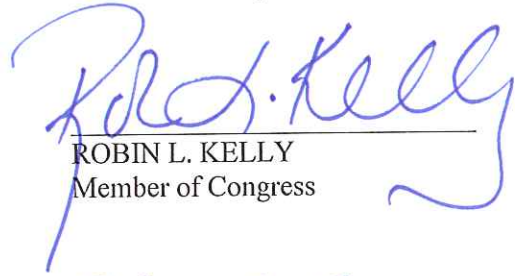
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH  
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress



ROBIN L. KELLY  
Member of Congress



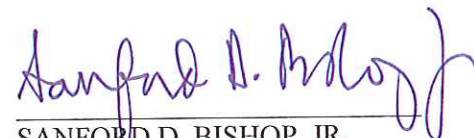
DWIGHT EVANS  
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON JR.  
Member of Congress



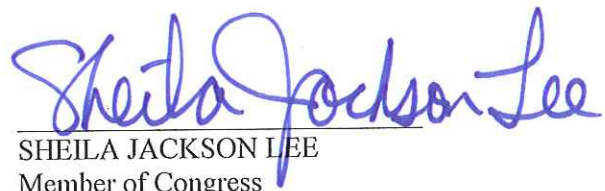
MIKE QUIGLEY  
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.  
Member of Congress



BRIAN FITZPATRICK  
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress

*Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen*

AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGON  
Member of Congress

*Eddie Bernice Johnson*

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

*Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon*

JENNIFFER GONZALEZ-COLÓN  
Member of Congress

*Vicente Gonzalez*

VICENTE GONZALEZ  
Member of Congress

*Stacey E. Plaskett*

STACEY PLASKETT  
Member of Congress

*Lisa Blunt Rochester*

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER  
Member of Congress

*Raul M. Grijalva*

RAUL GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress

*Ruben Gallego*

RUBEN GALLEGO  
Member of Congress